



Connecting Communities For Generations to Come

King County Parks **Your**  King County
Big Backyard

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

 lairdnorton
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**To the Business Leaders
and Residents of King County:**

If you are like most of us who live here, you can't picture yourself living anywhere else. There is no question that much of the connection we feel with this region is because of our parks. Our parks connect families, communities, and businesses. They are living, breathing open spaces where our kids can roam and discover the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest.

For 75 years, King County Parks has been the trusted steward of these beloved places where we go to play, picnic, hike, and restore. Today we want to celebrate the organization's success, and help secure its future – by making a legacy investment that supports the resiliency of the parks system for many years to come.

We are proud that Laird Norton Wealth Management has taken a purposeful step toward securing the next 75 years by partnering with King County Parks to establish the King County Parks Foundation.

The new foundation is dedicated to existing projects that are under-funded, and to bring new, important open spaces into the fold.

But this is just the beginning. It will take a community of public, private and non-profit sectors working collaboratively to lift up this vision and to make it work. Together, we can invest in long-term legacy projects that will preserve natural beauty, protect our water and wildlife, and respond to growing recreation needs for future generations.

Please join us on this extraordinary mission to support the next 75 years of King County Parks.

Sincerely,



Robert Moser
President & CEO
Laird Norton Wealth Management



Dow Constantine
King County Executive



Burke-Gilman Trail



Marymoor Park Concerts



Steve Cox Memorial Park Play Area

My King County Parks



When you think about King County Parks, don't just think about trees and trails. Think about your kids. Think about your dogs. What would they do without the parks? Where would they play? Where would they run? Where would they go for long walks?

For 17 years my family and I have thoroughly enjoyed King County Parks. We've hiked the Cougar Mountain trails. We've biked the Burke-Gilman Trail with our children. We've let our dog roam free at Marymoor Park's off-leash dog area.

King County Parks also provide a refuge from the office — a way to break away from the computer screen, to reboot and refresh the brain and the body. They provide a way to reconnect with the outside world.

King County Parks are funded primarily by a voter-approved levy, set to expire at the end of this year. Because of the importance of these parks to me personally and to the broader community, I agreed to co-chair the King County Parks Levy Task Force last year to ensure that these incredible green spaces are maintained for our use and the enjoyment of future generations. And now the newly formed King County Parks Foundation provides each one of us park lovers a way to support our parks. Every dollar donated to the Foundation will help grow and preserve the future of parks. Your support of the foundation is needed and much appreciated.

[Kathy Surace-Smith is vice president and general counsel at NanoString Technologies, Inc. and co-chaired the 2012 King County Parks Levy Task Force.]

King County Parks

Your Big Backyard

King County

FACTS

200 PARKS + 5 MILLION ANNUAL VISITORS

PARKS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AMONG CHILDREN AND ADULTS.



175 MILES OF REGIONAL TRAILS

90% OF KING COUNTY CITIES ARE SERVED BY THE REGIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

+16%

HIGHER VALUE OF HOMES NEAR NATURAL AREA PARKS THAN THOSE NOT NEAR PARKS (IN WA)

HUNDREDS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES

26,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

500 NEW ACRES PROTECTED ANNUALLY ON AVERAGE

\$8.5 BILLION GENERATED ANNUALLY IN RETAIL SALES + SERVICES BY ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WA STATE

2012 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

7,500 VOLUNTEERS

53,000 HOURS

21,500 NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

ONE ACRE OF 60-YEAR-OLD HEALTHY PUGET SOUND DOUGLAS-FIR FOREST STORES ABOUT 500 METRIC TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO THE ANNUAL CLIMATE POLLUTION PRODUCED BY MORE THAN 100 CARS.

3.5% OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT

115,000 JOBS

\$650 MILLION IN SALES TAX REVENUE

CONTRIBUTE OurParksOurFuture.org

Legacy Projects

Legacy projects are priorities for King County Parks, and reflect the variety of needs and users of its parks and trails. They are not the only projects that will ever be funded by the Foundation, as over time the priorities and needs will change. With generous donations to the Foundation, these projects and many others can be made possible.

Regional Trails

The King County Regional Trail System is one of the nation’s most extensive multi-use, off-road systems with 175 miles of trails for bicycling, hiking, walking, and horseback riding. The Regional Trail System, which spans an area from Bothell to Auburn and Seattle to the Cascades, provides extensive opportunities for recreation and non-motorized mobility and commuting throughout King County. And the Regional Trail System continues to grow! King County is actively planning and developing a network of regional trails that will total more than 300 miles. Investing in our trail network increases regional mobility, connects communities, contributes to healthy lifestyles, and addresses gaps in access to underserved areas of the county.

Eastside Rail Corridor

Taking hold of an historic opportunity to connect our region, King County purchased 15.6 miles of the 42-mile Eastside rail corridor. With the cities of Redmond and Kirkland and Sound Transit, this corridor is now protected in public ownership. Spanning from Renton north to Snohomish County, this iconic property has the potential to be developed into a dual use corridor that will serve the entire region for generations to come.



Lake-to-Sound Trail

Similar to the popular Burke-Gilman Trail, the Lake-to-Sound Trail will be a continuous 16-mile long regional, non-motorized trail, linking Lake Washington to Puget Sound. The trail will stretch west from Renton to Puget Sound in Des Moines, winding through Tukwila, SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines, and connecting the Cedar River Trail, the Green River Trail, the Westside Trail and the Des Moines Creek Trail.



King County Parks **Your Big Backyard**  King County

OurParksOurFuture.org

1938

King County Department of Public Works, Parks and Playgrounds is established



King County Records and Archives

1956

King County voters pass first \$1 million bond issue for park acquisition and development



King County Records and Archives

1962

Marymoor Park purchased for \$1.1 million



King County Records and Archives

1968

Forward Thrust bond issue passes; King County Parks receives \$49.2 million



King County Records and Archives

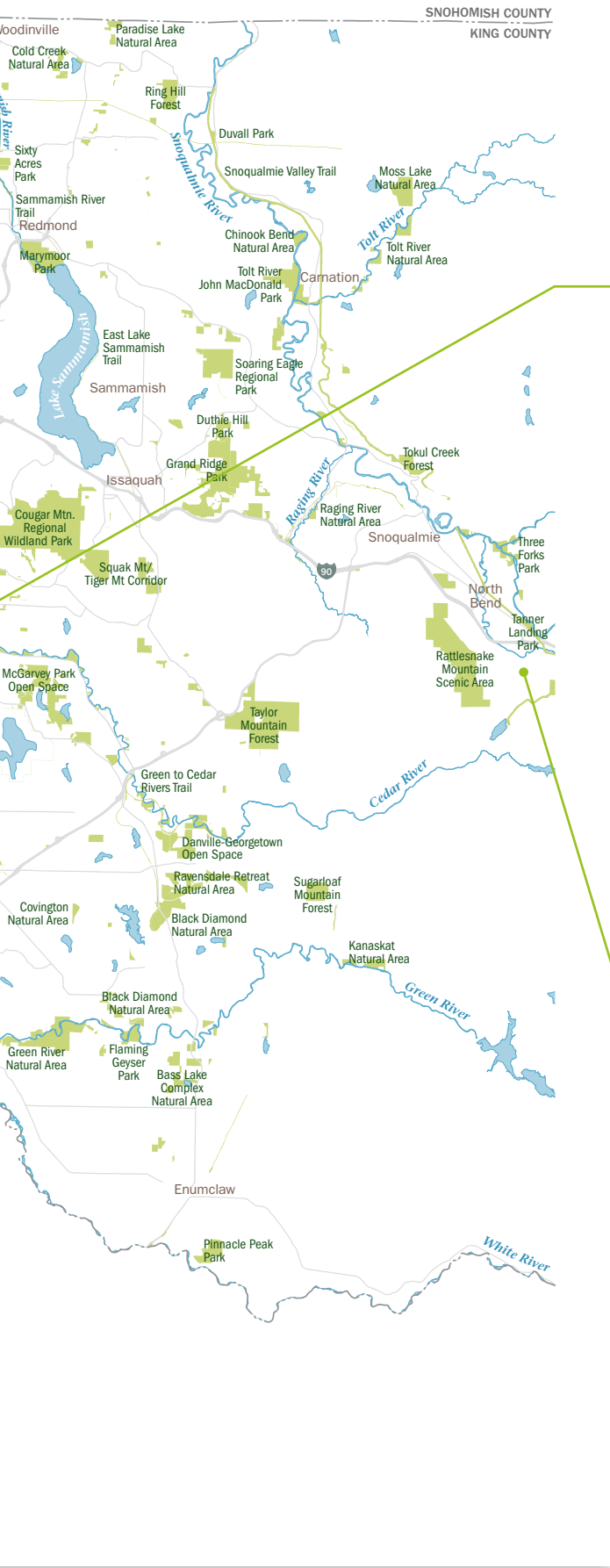
1971

King County’s first trails plan adopted providing the foundation for today’s 175 mile Regional Trails System



1975

Marymoor Park Velodrome built



Open Space

Investing in open space will provide important community gathering areas, habitat for wildlife, and recreational opportunities, as well as farmland, places of natural beauty, and critical wetlands. Open space preservation supports smart growth goals by increasing cross-cultural and cross-generational connections, bolstering local economies, preserving critical environmental areas, improving community quality of life, and guiding new growth into existing communities. These are the places to get away from it all—to fish, hike, kayak, picnic, bike, bird-watch or enjoy quality time with friends and family.

Maury Island

In December 2010, King County protected 250 acres of open space, including Madrone forests and habitat that supports endangered species in Puget Sound such as Chinook salmon, orca, and bull trout. This expansive beach is one of the largest undeveloped marine shorelines in all of Puget Sound. Investing in King County Parks' Foundation will ensure this land is not only protected, but enhanced and enjoyed for generations.



Parks

In our 200 parks, you'll find the playfields where our kids learn to play soccer and baseball, and the green spaces where we take our grandparents to visit on spring weekends and where we gather friends for a picnic; the pools where we learn to swim; and the woods where we go when we need to unplug from our busy lives and recharge our souls. These public assets and protected natural areas enhance our regions quality of life and preserve this public lands legacy for future generations of King County residents.

Tanner Landing Park

At the base of Mt. Si in North Bend, Tanner Landing is an irresistible park for lovers of wide-open spaces. In partnership with American Whitewater, we are developing a long-term vision for this park that will offer a place for the community and families to explore and enjoy.



1979

\$50 million Farmlands Preservation bond issue passes to preserve open space and natural resources



1986

1,400 acres acquired on Cougar Mountain

1990

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center opens for Goodwill Games



1993

King County Council approves \$60 million bond to purchase open space and trails, with \$14.8 million dedicated to conserve streams and rivers and protect salmon habitat



1998

East Lake Sammamish rail corridor acquired



2002

Parks releases a "Business Transition Plan", implementing new strategies to generate revenue and pursue a voter-approved levy to fund operations and maintenance

Our Parks, Our Future

Living in the beautiful Northwest, it’s easy to take our natural surroundings for granted - the mountains, lakes, Sound and all the greenery that connects them.

Much of that green space is protected in the form of parks. King County Parks is one of the largest parks systems in the nation with more than 26,000 acres of parks and open space, 175 miles of regional trails, and 180 miles of backcountry trails. Its 200 parks are filled with playfields, green spaces, picnic areas, trails and woods. Physically - through a growing trail system - and figuratively - by offering places for people to congregate and recreate, these parks truly provide a way for families, communities and businesses to connect.

“The parks provide that opportunity to come together and recreate in a stunningly beautiful place,” says Robert Moser, president and chief executive officer of Laird Norton Wealth Management, which donated \$75,000 to help launch the King County Parks Foundation to support the future growth of King County’s parks. “It’s the hidden gem in our community. Our kids play soccer there. We go hiking. We go camping. We go biking. We assume they’ll be there every day and that someone will take care of them. But it won’t always be that way.”

The King County Parks Foundation launched in April to enhance that community connectivity with a goal of raising \$7.5 million for legacy projects over the next decade. The mission is to cultivate private-sector investments to connect communities to regional trails, open space and parks and to support the parks and trails for future generations. Nearly 20 percent of King

County Parks’ annual budget is generated from business revenues and the remainder from a voter-supported levy and miscellaneous revenues. “These funds are essential for daily operations and maintenance, but they are simply not enough to properly invest in long-term legacy projects that will preserve beautiful places for leisure, protect our water and wildlife, and respond to growing recreation needs for generations to come,” says Kevin Brown, director of the King County Parks Division. “That’s why we’re so grateful for this new funding opportunity.”

Among the legacy projects are two significantly expanded trail systems - the Lake-to-Sound Trail and the Eastside Rail Corridor. The 16-mile non-motorized Lake-to-Sound Trail will link Lake Washington to Puget Sound, beginning in Renton and connecting the Cedar River Trail, Green River Trail, Westside Trail and the Des Moines Creek Trail to link the cities of Tukwila, SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines. The 42-mile Eastside Rail Corridor will span from Renton north to Snohomish County with 15.6 miles purchased by King County, which has partnered with Redmond and Kirkland and Sound Transit to develop a dual-use corridor for transportation and recreation.

These trails are an exciting addition to east and south King County and will become as popular as the Burke-Gilman Trail in North King County. “The Eastside Rail Corridor Trail is critical because it also intersects numerous other trails,” Brown says. “Our goal is to grow to 300 miles of trails, allowing residents to travel from Pierce County to Snohomish County, from Puget Sound to Snoqualmie Pass, on a designated trail.”

The trails clearly will work to connect the community physically. Figuratively, the parks help connect the community in many more ways. Families and friends gather to picnic, walk their dogs, or to play or watch their children participate in sports. They attend concerts and other cultural events. They gather with co-workers to volunteer on parks projects. They walk, jog or bike the trails together.

As head of a 46-year-old family business that has many families as clients, Moser has seen how participating in activities together makes families stronger. That’s why his company chose to support the King County Parks Foundation, he says. “We know that it’s hard for a family to thrive and flourish without a strong community. We have an obligation to support our community, and the park system is all about values, family and building community.”

Do parks really help businesses as well? Park supporters think so. The Lake-to-Sound Trail will go past several employment centers, including Sea-Tac Airport and Westfield Southcenter Mall, while the future trail along the Eastside Rail Corridor will pass Google in Kirkland, go through downtown Bellevue, and near the Boeing plant in Renton, offering a new way for employees to commute to work or to enjoy their breaks.

Moser also believes parks make businesses stronger by keeping employees happy and engaged. “As a business leader I support the park system because the happier and healthier your workforce is, the higher chance your business will be successful.”



Chinook Bend

2003

Marymoor Park Concert Series launches with Tracy Chapman



2003

Community Partnership Program is launched, empowering community-based organizations to plan, design, construct and maintain public recreation facilities on park land



2005

King County Parks establishes partnership with Cirque du Soleil



2007

2008-2013 King County Parks Operation and Maintenance Levy passes and the 2008-2013 Open Space and Trails Levy passes

2012

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center hosts U.S. Olympic Team Dive Trials



2013

King County Parks partners with Laird Norton Wealth Management to commemorate its 75th anniversary and create the King County Parks Foundation



Community Partners

- American Whitewater
- Audubon Washington
- Back Country Horsemen of WA, Tahoma Chapter
- Bicycle Alliance of Washington
- Boys & Girls Clubs of King County
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Community Alliance to Reach and Engage (CARE)
- Discovering Open Spaces, Lakewood Park Disc Golf
- Eastside Audubon
- Eastside Football Club
- Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association
- Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
- Forterra
- Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
- Friends of Dockton Park
- Friends of Hicklin Lake
- Friends of Island Center Forest
- Friends of Marymoor Park
- Friends of Maury Island Marine Park
- Friends of North Shorewood Park
- Friends of Skyway Park
- Friends of Soos Creek
- Hollywood Hill Saddle Club
- Issaquah Alps Trails Club
- Issaquah Little League
- Kent Youth Soccer Association
- King County Executive Horse Council
- Kirkland American Little League
- Kirkland Lacrosse
- Kirkland National Little League
- Lake Sawyer Hawks
- Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
- Maple Valley Rotary Club
- Maple Valley Youth Soccer Association
- Marymoor Radio Control Club
- Marymoor Velodrome Association
- Middle Green River Coalition
- Mirrormont Community Association
- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Northshore Little League
- Northwest Paragliding Club
- Preston Community Club
- Rainier Audubon Society
- Ravensdale Park Foundation
- Redmond North Little League
- Rock Creek Sports
- Sammamish Rowing Association
- Seattle Area Soaring Society
- Seattle Audubon Society
- Seattle Running Club
- Sierra Club (South County Group)
- S.O.D.A. (Serve Our Dog Areas)
- Technology Access Foundation
- The Trust for Public Land
- Vashon Forest Stewards
- Vashon Maury Island Land Trust
- Washington Trails Association
- Water Tenders
- YMCA of Greater Seattle

We are thankful to these partners and many others who use and support our 200 parks, 175 miles of trails, and 26,000 acres of open space.



Terry Lavendar
Chair, King County Conservation
Futures Citizen Advisory Committee

No other entity can provide what King County Parks do – our Regional Trail system; mountain biking; back country hiking trails; views to green hillsides; sweeping panoramas from Tiger, Squak and other vantage points; large regional parks like Marymoor, Cougar Mountain and Pinnacle Peak; restored rivers and salmon recovery; enough working forest to ensure a timber industry and much more. King County Parks are the best of what we are as a region. With the King County Parks Foundation and the support of the community, we can continue to grow and improve all of the amazing parks we already have.



Trish Millines Dziko
Co-founder, Executive Director
Technology Access Foundation

Thanks to a partnership between King County Parks and the Technology Access Foundation (TAF), students who attend TAF’s STEM Up (Science Technology Engineering and Math) classes at the TAF Bethaday Learning Community Space will work with King County scientists to investigate the effectiveness of the water cleansing floating islands in Hicklin Lake in Lakewood Park. STEM Up and the other STEM education programs provided by TAF would not be possible without our partnership with King County Parks, which included land at Lakewood Park and \$2 million to build the Bethaday Community Learning Center as a hub of community education with the capacity to educate over 1,500 students per year. The establishment of the King County Parks Foundation will help to continue to protect important green spaces for our children.



Norman B. Rice
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Seattle Foundation

The importance of public parks cannot be overstated. Parks are not a luxury. They are an ever important aspect of our lives for how they support physical recreation, preserve vital green space, save critical wildlife habitat and provide community gathering spaces. Public parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands for the benefit and use of all. The establishment of the King County Parks Foundation demonstrates our commitment to this tradition and how the people of this region are willing to care for, protect and invest in the prize parks we all so enjoy.



Tim Bauman
President
Eastside Football Club

Soccer is a substantial activity at Preston Park, with nearly 1,000 community members utilizing our fields every year. Our partnership with King County Parks has been instrumental in delivering effective, efficient, and highly successful field capacity to a system in dire need of it. Parks leveraged \$2 million of private investment capital to develop lighted synthetic turf capacity for youth sports. This has provided a local amenity that significantly enhances the livability of the Preston community. We can only imagine what the King County Parks Foundation will now be able to do for other recreational needs in the County.



Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center



Picnic. Kayak. Hike. Play Ball.
Bike. Fall In Love. Take A Nap.

Contribute.

OurParksOurFuture.org

Help the King County Parks Foundation's mission to support the ongoing enhancement and stewardship of our parks and trails.

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